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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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Albanian Armored School

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1. On 4 July 1949 Soviet Major Shtemenko, Inspector of Training of Armored Troops of the Albanian General Staff, delivered a lecture at the Albanian Armored Troops School at Karunar on the subject "Employment of Armor."

2. Major Shtemenko declared that armor should be regarded as the chief weapon. All other branches of the service, such as artillery and aviation, should serve as protection to the armored troops. In combat, tanks should be supported and camouflaged.

3. According to Major Shtemenko, the tactical employment of tanks should be as follows:

- a. Assembly of the tanks at the assembly area (60-70 kilometers behind the front);
- b. Grouping of tanks in preparatory positions (20-30 kilometers behind the front);
- c. Assembly of tanks in combat positions (10 kilometers);
- d. Concentration of tanks for attack, supported by reconnaissance and fighter aircraft to protect the tanks from bombers.

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4. The tanks should begin action at the crucial moment in the attack. They should be supported by infantry and mortar fire designed to paralyze the operation of the enemy anti-tank artillery.

5. The infantry should follow the tanks as closely as possible, the tanks protecting the infantry from enemy fire. After the resistance of the first line of the enemy is broken, the infantry should occupy that line, while the tanks continue their advance, with effective support of assault guns at a distance of 200 meters. Under such conditions, Major Shtemenko declared, the success of the attack is assured.

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6. Under no circumstances should the tanks halt to liquidate the resistance of isolated groups of the enemy remaining behind the lines of attack. This is the task of the motorized infantry, which should follow the armored troops. The tanks should not stop except in case of lack of fuel.
7. In the event of defense against an enemy offensive, the first condition for the utilization of tanks is the organization of the zone of anti-tank defense. This zone is 2 kilometers wide and 1 to 5 or 10 kilometers deep. This area is divided into three company sectors, which in turn are divided into platoon sectors.
8. The platoon is concerned with defense on all sides of a sector 200 to 250 meters wide and about 150 meters deep. The platoon is armed with automatic and anti-tank rifles. The heavy machine guns, mortars, and anti-tank guns should be installed behind the defensive sectors. The company commander takes up his position in the center of his company's sector.
9. Battalion redoubts that can be transformed into centers of anti-tank defense should be organized in the center of the battalion command.
10. The centers of company defense are more or less independent of one another, and the companies communicate among themselves only indirectly, through the battalion center. These company centers generally are 1,500 meters apart, and the intervals are occupied by small positions of men armed with automatic pistols and by mine fields.
11. The automatic rifles open fire at a distance of 800 meters, the elite skirmishers ("tirailleurs d'elite") at 600 meters and the super-elite skirmishers ("tirailleurs extra-elite") at 400 meters.

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